

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Twin Falls District  
Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street  
Shoshone, Idaho 83352  
Phone: (208) 732-7200

**DECISION RECORD**  
**for the**  
**Bald Mountain Bike Trails**  
**NEPA No. DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2013-0025-EA**

**I. Decision**

It is my decision to authorize the Sun Valley Company's proposal to construct, use, operate, and maintain 7.5 miles of new and reconstructed mountain bike trails on the Bald Mountain Ski Permit Area as described in the Bald Mountain Bike Trails environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2013-0025-EA). Based on my review of the EA and project record, I have concluded that the Proposed Action was analyzed in sufficient detail to allow me to make an informed decision. The need for the action is established by BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to respond to requests for the commercial use of public lands. Consistent with 43 CFR § 2930 and section 302 of FLPMA it is the BLM's objective or purpose in considering this action, to provide for the orderly and timely processing of proposals for commercial use of the public lands. I have selected this alternative because it meets the purpose and need to respond to the Sun Valley Company's request and provides additional recreation opportunities on public lands for residents and visitors to the Wood River Valley while minimizing environmental impacts.

My decision is in conformance with the 1981 Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (MFP) (BLM 1981), although the Proposed Action is not specifically provided for within the document. The general management philosophy for the Sun Valley Analysis Unit of the MFP directs that "this area will be managed for recreation, local government needs, and open space" and includes "intensive recreation development." Further decisions identified in the MFP include Recreation Decision No. 1:

Manage the Bald Mountain area for intensive ski development. Allow additional development that is in accordance with a master plan approved by BLM and U.S. Forest Service in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Bald Mountain Winter Sports Area.

In addition, the decision is consistent with the 2005 Sun Valley master Development Plan (MDP), which was completed with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and resulting Record of Decision (ROD) in 2007. The 2005 MDP, 2007 EIS, and 2007 ROD did not specifically address actions within the Proposed Action; however, the Best Management Practices and Project Design Criteria established in the ROD provide the framework for project-specific design criteria and Best Management Practices tailored to address impacts of the Proposed Action that were evaluated in the Bald Mountain Bike Trails EA. The Project Design Criteria and Best Management Practices for this proposed action include:

#### **Soils and Watershed Resources**

- Sun Valley staff will work with the public land agencies to inspect BMP implementation and effectiveness on a regular basis during project implementation (at least every 2 weeks, and after any rainfall event of greater than 0.5 inches). Any identified deficiencies in implementation or effectiveness will be addressed.
- Re-vegetate areas, as designated by the BLM, where the soil has been exposed by ground-disturbing activity.
- Re-planting/seed distribution shall occur in the early spring or late fall.
- An appropriate native seed mix for re-vegetation will be agreed upon for use by the BLM Shoshone Field Office.
- Soil-disturbing activities will be avoided during periods of heavy rain or wet soils.

#### **Wildlife**

- To avoid potential impacts to nesting northern goshawks and migratory birds, no tree cutting will occur between May 1 and July 31, unless a site specific survey is conducted to preclude occupation by nesting birds.

#### **Noxious Weeds**

- Implement BLM and State requirements pertaining to noxious weed management.
- Trail construction/earth-disturbing equipment used on all public lands – such as trail dozers, mini excavators – shall be cleaned to remove all visible plant parts, dirt, and material that may carry noxious weed seeds. Cleaning shall occur prior to entry onto the project area and again upon leaving the project area, if the project area has noxious weed infestations.
- Integrated Weed Management shall be used to maintain or restore habitats for sensitive plants and other native species of concern where they are threatened by noxious weeds or non-native invasive plants.

## **II. Finding of No Significant Impact**

I have reviewed the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the EA for the Bald Mountain Bike Trails EA. I have also reviewed the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the project record for this analysis. I have determined that approval of the Sun Valley Company's request to construct and use the proposed trails as described in the EA will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the

alternatives as detailed in the FONSI.

### **III. Other Alternatives Considered**

The EA considered two alternatives: the no action alternative and the Proposed Action.

### **IV. Public Involvement**

This project has been listed on the Idaho NEPA Register since October 2013. Scoping letters were mailed October 31, 2013 to inform interested and potentially affected parties of the Proposed Action and solicit comments. Scoping letters were mailed to all 12 individuals and organizations on the SFO NEPA mailing list, including permittees and federal, state, and county governments. In addition, a press release was sent to all local newspapers and radio stations. The BLM received six comment letters or responses from the public.

Public comments received fell within the following categories:

- Trail Design, Use, and Experience
- Existing Trails and Access
- Trail Construction and Impacts
- BLM Evaluation Process

The project description, scoping package and maps, and Draft EA were presented to the Shoshone- Paiute Tribes as part of Wings and Roots meetings during the course of the project. BLM was not presented with any comments on the project or Draft EA during these meetings. The Shoshone Bannock Tribe was mailed a scoping package on October 31, 2013 and did not receive comments.

Issues identified during internal scoping and carried through during the analysis described in the EA were soils, visual resources, vegetation including Special Status Plant Species, invasive plants and noxious weeds, wildlife including threatened or endangered and Special Status Species, migratory birds, recreation, and socioeconomics. Best Management Practices and Project Design Criteria specific to the Proposed Action are described and included within the Bald Mountain Bike Trails EA to mitigate impacts to resources.

### **V. Appeals**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Any appeal must be filed within 30 days of this decision. Any notice of appeal must be filed with the authorized office in the BLM Shoshone Field Office at 400 West F Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352. The appellant shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs on each adverse party named in the decision, not later than 15 days after filing such document (see 43 CFR 4.413(a)). Failure to serve within the time required will subject the appeal to summary dismissal (see 43 CFR 4.413(b)). If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the

IBLA, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U. S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized office with the BLM Shoshone Field Office.

Notwithstanding the provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a)(1), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of the decision. If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

In the event a request for stay or an appeal is filed, the person/party requesting the stay or filing the appeal must serve a copy of the appeal on the Office of the Field Solicitor, 960 Broadway Ave., Suite 400, Boise, ID 83706.

/s/ Codie Martin

Codie Martin

BLM Shoshone Field Office Field Manager

10/22/15

Date